

**From:** Sydney Kendall  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/22/02 12:04pm  
**Subject:** Economic Liberty

To the District Court Judge:

When I shopped for my first computer I went to a store that exclusively sold Macintosh. The saleswoman gave me her pitch and let me examine a working computer, yet she was not successful in demonstrating the superiority of the system over my Dad's PC. I'd been told by friends that the Mac was easier to use, was better for graphic art creation, and they had urged me to choose a Mac. But when it came to the hands-on demonstration, I could not see any advantage, and if there was one, the saleswoman didn't know how to show it.

I went to CompuServe and was greeted by a salesman from Packard Bell. He gave me a thorough tour of his product. He answered all my questions clearly and with elaboration, and demonstrated all the product's advantages. I would get more of everything I wanted on that computer for a lower price than the Mac, plus more programs were available. In my judgement I was getting more for my money, so I bought the PC. I'm still happy with it nearly 4 years later.

My Windows system came with the Internet Explorer browser. When I started building a web page, I learned that different browsers display web pages differently, so I went over to Netscape and downloaded the Navigator so that I could view my pages through the two most common browsers, and make sure they'd look good to most viewers. While I was using Navigator to check my pages, I also examined it to see whether I might prefer it to IE. I didn't. My dad also downloaded the Navigator and used it for awhile, but had some problems with it and went back to IE, downloading the latest version off the 'Net for free.

I am a free adult, capable of exploring the market and making my choices without the government interposing itself between me and the companies offering their goods. Microsoft made it possible for me to get more of what I wanted for the price I could afford. I had full access to Mac on the market, as well as to Netscape Navigator. I freely chose to try my options and to buy what I wanted according to my means and my own standards.

That is how the free market is supposed to work. Microsoft did not threaten me or anyone else with fines, imprisonment, or any other form of coercion. I do not see the company as a threat to my or anyone else's liberty.

I cannot say the same for the anti-competitive tool used by the less successful against their more successful competition: Antitrust Law.

Please protect the right of the successful to the fruits of their achievements. Leave Microsoft alone.

Sincerely,  
Barbara A. Himes

